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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99F-0720]

Arakawa Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Arakawa Chemical Industries, Ltd. has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to expand the safe use of hydrogenated aromatic petroleum hydrocarbon resins for use in blends with polymers intended for contact with food.

DATES: Written comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by (insert date 30 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER).

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen M. Waldron,
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-215),
Food and Drug Administration,
200 C St. SW.,
Washington, DC 20204,
202-418-3089.

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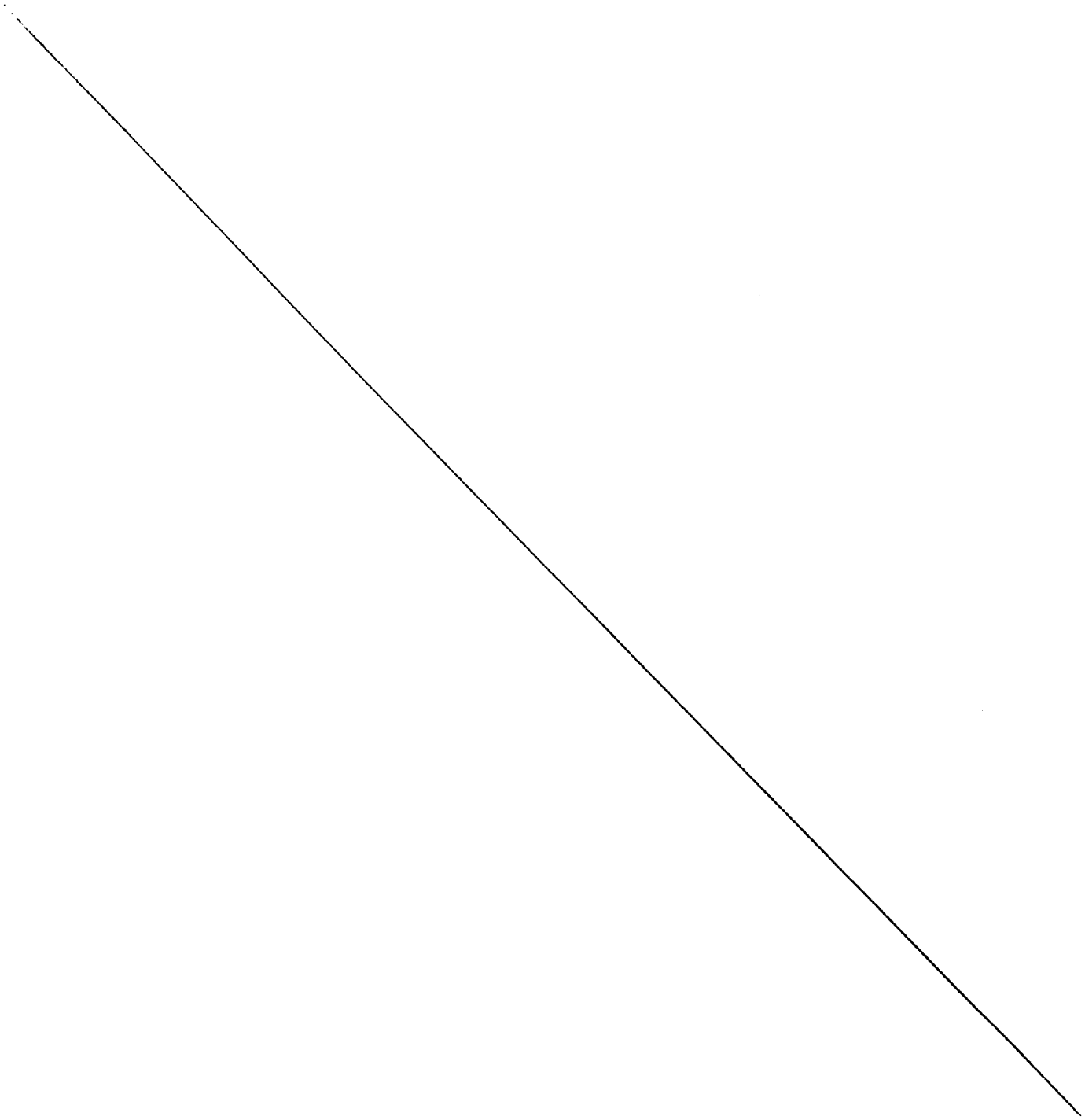
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 9B4653) has been filed by Arakawa Chemical Industries, Ltd., c/o Keller and Heckman, LLP, 1001 G St. NW., suite 500 West, Washington, DC 20001. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in 21 CFR part 178--Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers and in § 177.1520 Olefin polymers (21 CFR 177.1520) to expand the safe use of hydrogenated aromatic petroleum hydrocarbon resins, for use in blends with polymers intended for contact with food.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations issued under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before (insert date 30 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER), submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public

display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without further announcement in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact



and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the FEDERAL REGISTER in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

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Dated: March 22, 1999

Laura M Tarantino

Laura M. Tarantino
Acting Director
Office of Premarket Approval
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition